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United States Department of Agriculture



4WD

MIDNIGHT MINE ROAD #118

Length: 5.5 miles one-way (8.9 km);

Difficulty: Difficult

Trail Use: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 8,329 feet (2539 m)

Ending Elevation: 11,212 feet (3417 m)

USGS Map(s): Aspen

ATTRACTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS: This is a fairly well maintained dirt road with several steep sections. This road is not used by 4WDs as much Little Annie or Summer Roads. A loop ride can be made by going up Midnight Mine Road and down Little Annie Road.

ACCESS: Travel west from Aspen 1/2 mile on Highway 82 to the Roundabout. Go around the Roundabout and turn right onto Castle Creek Road. Travel approximately 2 1/2 miles on Castle Creek Road to the turn-off to Midnight Mine Road on the left. There is a road sign designating the road. There is limited parking at the beginning of Midnight Mine Road.

NARRATIVE: The road begins with a short descent, then crosses a bridge and begins its continuous uphill climb. There are numerous private drives-- please stay on the main road. The road becomes steeper with several switchbacks. In approximately 2 miles there is a cabin on the left and a large mound of mine tailings on the right. The road climbs steeply between them, continuing to ascend to the junction with the Little Annie Road at about the 4 mile mark. Stay left to continue to the top of Aspen Mountain and the Sundeck Restaurant. From the top you can access Richmond Hill Road which follows the ridge behind Aspen Mountain.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Motorized vehicles are not allowed within adjacent Wilderness Areas. Before you go out, check into available routes, their conditions, ownership of land, posted areas, regulations that apply and the following rules:

- * Be sure your machine is as quiet as possible.
- * Avoid wetlands, streams, and steep hills where your tracks may cause damage.
- * **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * Avoid running over young trees, shrubs and grasses--**Stay on established routes!**
- * Ford streams at designated sites only.

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest suggests purchasing a topographical trail map prior to your 4WD trip.